

## Johnson Creek ISTEA Trail



The Johnson Creek trail connection from Randol Mill to Division was complete and open to the public in January of this year, six months ahead of schedule. "This is a significant achievement," states Parks Director Pete Jamieson. "We began this project almost 9 years ago. It takes time to assemble land and prepare the necessary contract documents. But now that we are finished, it will provide citizens a nice alternative to vehicles in that area...especially during games at the Ballpark. Someday we hope to carry the trail even farther south, but that will have to be another project."

For more information, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.



## O.S. Gray Park Nature Trail

O.S. Gray Park is approximately 22 acres in size and is located at 2021 W. Abram Street on an abandoned pecan nursery site. Although the park has been master planned to include a playground, parking lot, picnic facilities and a restroom, phase I construction is limited to trail development only. "We built over a half mile of soft surface nature trail," boasts Associate Planner, De'Onna Garner. "This trail was funded by a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and constructed by volunteer labor. It accesses several heavily wooded areas in the park and we hope to expand it one day when additional funds are available."

For more information, please contact

De'Onna Garner, Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.



## Vandergriff Park Roads & Parking

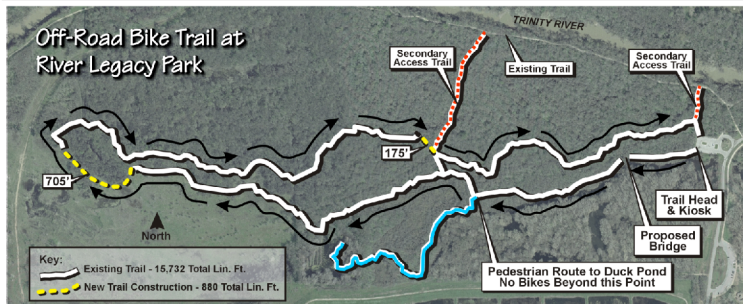
Visitors to the Allen Bolden Pool this spring will be treated to a new and expanded concrete parking lot. Demolition of the old asphalt roadways and parking around the facility was complete in January by Tarrant County Precinct 2 staff. A private contractor will begin installing the new paving in February.

"The old paving was in terrible condition," Assistant Director Gordon Robertson said. "New construction will be concrete, a much more durable material than the old asphalt. We have also redesigned the circulation system at the park. When complete, it will be much easier to navigate the road system and there will be no more cut-through traffic. Most traffic will enter the park off Center St." Construction is scheduled to be complete in early May.

For more information, please contact

John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.





Efforts are currently under way to develop an off-road bike trail in River Legacy Parks. This work is in response to the recognized need to provide a responsible alternative to earlier uncontrolled activity. "In the past, BMX dirt jumping caused a significant amount of damage to this park," reports Associate Park Planner De'Onna Garner. "In response, we had to temporarily prohibit this activity. Some vegetation has recovered, but reclamation of these areas is far from fully restored."

Staff has been working with a committee of interested citizens to develop a plan to accommodate off-road bicycling in our community while preserving the natural environment of River Legacy Parks. The committee has enlisted the assistance of a local biking organization, DORBA (Dallas Off Road Biking Association), to help design, construct and maintain a designated off-road mountain bike trail on the west side of River Legacy Parks. Construction of approximately 3 miles of off-road trails is scheduled to begin early March 2003.

In addition, staff plans to submit an ordinance to the City Council amending the Parks Chapter of the City Code. The proposed ordinance will prohibit all off-road biking at River Legacy Parks except for in designated areas, one of which is this proposed trail.

For more information, please contact De'Onna Garner, Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.



## Renovations at Harold Patterson Softball Complex

Three renovation projects are underway at the Harold Patterson softball fields. The most noticeable change will be a new lighting system for all four fields. "The lighting levels are going to increase dramatically," reports Associate Park Planner De'Onna Garner. "Ballplayers will really appreciate this improvement. The old lights were extremely outdated. This system will reduce glare and increase the uniformity. We'll have a more even distribution of light."

The foul line fences are also being renovated at this time. The old fences for all four fields will be replaced with a heavier gauge chain link and raised to a height of 8 feet. An additional horizontal rail and concrete mow strip have also been added.

Lastly, the restrooms are getting a facelift including the replacement of sinks, lights, and partitions. They will also be repainted.

"Hopefully, these projects are just the beginning for some major improvements to Patterson," says Assistant Director Gordon Robertson. "We'd like to continue investing in this extremely important facility."

All three projects will be complete before league play begins in March.



### Construction Update at Martin Luther King Sports Center

Reconstruction of the restrooms at the sports center is under way and should be complete by April.

Damage caused by arson required the complete replacement of the building.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information on these two projects, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478